

Houston Tavern  
(Old Tavern)  
Arrow Rock  
Saline County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-222

HABS  
MO,  
98-ARORO,  
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Kansas City

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Thomas Wright, District Officer  
400 First National Bank Building, Kansas City, MO

## OLD TAVERN

Arrow Rock, Missouri

Physical Data

Name: Arrow Rock Tavern

Location: Arrow Rock, Missouri.

Present Owner: State of Missouri and Daughters of the Revolution.

Present Occupant and Use: Daughters of the Revolution, who operate  
it as a tavern.Description (Present Condition)

Wall construction: Brick.

Size and form: "L" shaped. Approximately 60' x 80'.

Number of stories: Two.

Front porch: None

Rear porch: none

Exterior openings, windows: Double hung; 9 light above, 6 below.

" " doors: Wood

Cornice: Wood across front

Roofing: Asbestos shingles.

Chimneys: Four, brick.

Interior

Floors: Wood

Doors: Wood

Trim: Wood

Mantels: Six or eight of good design.

Stairways: Two, wood.

Plasterwork: Some old and some new. Rooms papered.

Additions and alterations: Additions were made by the original owner in the 1840's; and in 1923 the large dining room and kitchen were added to the rear.

#### Historical Data

Year of Erection: 1834

Built for: Joseph Huston.

Architect: Unknown.

Architect for alterations in 1923: L Baylor Pendleton of St. Louis.

Original use: Tavern.

Present use: Tavern.

Notable Occupants: Thomas H. Benton, U. S. Senator; Washington Irving, author; James S. Rollins, founder of the University of Missouri; George C. Bingham, Painter; Claiborne Jackson, Governor of Missouri; David R. Atchison, U. S. Senator, and George G. Vest, U. S. Senator.

Source: Missouri Historical Review, 1920-1924.

Prepared by

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Research Associate in American Architecture

1/14/41

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An addendum to:  
Houston Tavern  
(Old Tavern)  
Arrow Rock State Park  
Arrow Rock  
Saline County  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-222

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Addendum to HOUSTON TAVERN (Old Tavern)

HABS No. MO-222

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Location: Arrow Rock State Park, Arrow Rock, Saline County, Missouri

HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

The following information was recorded by Alexander Piaget and Charles van Ravenswaay at the time the photograph was taken:

The northeast and oldest portion of this building was built ca. 1830. Mr. Houston's store room and the ballroom above were added later. Other rooms were added from time to time. The hood above the front doorway is not original, but the belfry on the roof with its fish weathervane is characteristic of early taverns of the Middle West.

The taproom is entered through the door to the right of the hooded door. Joseph Houston originally used this as his store and trading room. Above the room and of the same size, was formerly the ballroom.

The bedroom has long been known as the "Haunted Bedroom" because of its connection with an unsolved Civil War mystery. The bed was formerly owned by Dr. John Sappington of quinine pill fame. The floor and mantel are original. A private stairway leads from this room to the office below. In the office, the mantel, chair rail and door are original. The floor and portrait above the mantel are modern.

PROJECT INFORMATION

The Piaget-van Ravenswaay Survey consists of a number of photographs, primarily of sites and structures in Missouri, which were taken before 1938 by Alexander Piaget and after that by Paul Piaget, both in conjunction with Charles van Ravenswaay. Photographs of buildings were incorporated into the HABS collection in 1985 by Laura Kupp and in 1986 by Deborah Fulton, HABS historians. A master list is available in the [REDACTED] records for MO-1800.